

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-11 (Cancelled)

12. (new) A method for conducting a cooking process in a cooking chamber of a cooking appliance using a cooking process probe which is to be inserted at least partly into an item being cooked in the cooking chamber for detecting at least one variable of the item being cooked, comprising the steps of:

at least at one predetermined point in time, automatically monitoring to detect non-insertion of the cooking process probe in which at least one of

at least one of a conductivity value, a resistance value, an induction value, a capacitance, a pressure characteristic, and a characteristic of at least one of an electric, magnetic, and electromagnetic field is detected for monitoring whether the cooking process probe is in a standby position in a retaining device provided by the cooking appliance or in a measuring position in a positioning device provided by an accessory part for receiving the item being cooked,

at least one of a conductivity value, a resistance value, an induction value, a capacitance value, a potential difference value, a weight value, a moisture value, a radiation characteristic, a pressure characteristic, and a characteristic of at least one of an electric, magnetic, and electromagnetic field is detected for monitoring whether the cooking process probe is removed from the retaining device or the positioning device,

at least one of radiation characteristics and a characteristic of at least one of an electric, magnetic and electromagnetic field is detected for monitoring whether the cooking process probe is at least one of moved and positioned inside the cooking appliance, and

at least one of a conductivity value, a resistance value, an induction value, a capacitance value, a potential difference value, a moisture value, a radiation characteristic, a pressure characteristic and a characteristic of at least one of an electric magnetic and electromagnetic field is detected for monitoring whether the cooking process probe is being grasped; and

if non-insertion is detected, at least one of a first warning signal is emitted, a changeover is made to an emergency program, and a cooking program is aborted.

13. (new) A method of claim 12 wherein to detect non-insertion of the cooking process probe, a monitoring is carried out to determine whether the cooking process probe is connected to the cooking appliance.

14. (new) A method of claim 12 wherein the predetermined point in time is determined by at least one of a beginning of the cooking process, an end of the cooking process, and an actuation of a cooking chamber door.

15. (new) A method of claim 12 wherein the detecting is carried out by at least one of over time and by forming time derivatives.

16. (new) A method of claim 12 wherein to detect non-insertion of the cooking process probe, at least one of at least one variable of the item being cooked detected by means of the cooking process probe, a variation over time of the variable of the item being cooked, and at least one derivative of the variation over time of the variable of the item being cooked is determined with respect to time, at least one of the determined variable of the item being cooked, the determined variation over time, and the determined derivative being compared with at least one set point value.

17. (new) A method of claim 12 wherein dependent on the cooking process, at least one of a second warning signal is emitted if the cooking process probe is not placed in the retaining device in order to call on an operator to place the cooking process probe in the retaining device, and a

third warning signal is emitted if the cooking process probe is not placed in the positioning device in order to call on an operator to place the cooking process probe in the positioning device.

18. (new) A cooking appliance, comprising:

5 a cooking chamber and a cooking process probe for insertion at least partly into an item being cooked in the cooking chamber and which detects at least one variable of the item being cooked;

a system which detects a non-insertion of the cooking process probe into the item being cooked, comprising at least one of

10 at least one of electrical contacts, a contact sensor, a pressure sensor, a light barrier, an ultrasonic sensor, a reed contact, a light sensor, and a conductivity sensor for monitoring whether the cooking process probe is in at least one of in a standby position, in a retaining device provided by the cooking appliance, and in a
15 measuring position in a positioning device provided by an accessory part for receiving the item being cooked,

at least one of electrical contacts, a contact sensor, a pressure sensor, a light barrier, an ultrasonic sensor, a reed contact, a light sensor and a conductivity sensor for monitoring whether the
20 cooking process probe has been removed from at least one of the retaining device and the positioning device,

at least one of a light barrier, an ultrasonic sensor, a locating system, a movement sensor and a light sensor for monitoring whether the cooking process probe is at least one of positioned inside the
25 cooking appliance and whether the cooking process probe has been moved, and

at least one of electrical contacts, a contact sensor, a pressure sensor, a light barrier, an ultrasonic sensor, a light sensor, a conductivity

sensor and a moisture sensor for monitoring whether the cooking process probe has been grasped; and

if non-insertion is detected, at least one of a first warning signal is emitted, a changeover is made to an emergency program, and the cooking
5 program is aborted for conducting a cooking process.

19. (new) A cooking appliance of claim 18 wherein at least one of the retaining device, the positioning device, and the cooking process probe senses whether the cooking process probe is inserted.

20. (new) A cooking appliance of claim 18 wherein at least one of
10 an input unit, an output unit, an open-loop control unit, and a closed-loop control unit are in operative connection with at least one of the cooking process probe, a cooking chamber door, the sensor, the retaining device, and the positioning device.

21. (new) A cooking appliance of claim 18 wherein the cooking
15 process probe is captively connected to the cooking appliance.

22. (new) A cooking appliance of claim 18 wherein a cooling device is provided at least temporarily in operative connection with at least one of the cooking process probe and the retaining device for cooling of at least one region of the cooking process probe.

20 23. (new) A method for conducting a cooking process in a cooking chamber of a cooking appliance using a cooking process probe which is to be inserted at least partly into an item being cooked in the cooking chamber for detecting at least one variable of the item being cooked, comprising the steps of:

25 at least at one predetermined point in time, automatically monitoring to detect non-insertion of the cooking process probe into the item being cooked; and

if non-insertion is detected, at least one of a first warning signal is emitted, a changeover is made to an emergency program, and a cooking program is aborted.

24. (new) The method of claim 23 wherein it is determined whether or not the cooking process probe is in a standby position in a retaining device.

25. (new) A method of claim 23 wherein it is detected whether the cooking process probe is in a measuring position in a positioning device which positions the measuring probe for insertion into the item being cooked.

26. (new) A method of claim 23 wherein it is detected whether or not the cooking process probe is being grasped.

27. (new) A cooking appliance, comprising:

a cooking chamber and a cooking process probe for insertion at least partly into an item being cooked in the cooking chamber and which detects at least one variable of the item being cooked; and

a system which detects at least at one predetermined point in time a non-insertion of the cooking process probe into the item being cooked.

28. (new) A cooking appliance of claim 25 wherein a retainer device is provided for holding the cooking process probe in a standby position and said system which detects non-insertion determining whether the cooking process probe is in the standby position.

29. (new) A cooking appliance according to claim 25 wherein a positioning device is provided for positioning the cooking process probe into the item being cooked and said system which detects non-insertion determining whether the cooking process probe is positioned in the positioning device.